

REMARKS

Claims 5-8, 10, 12-13, 16 and 17 are currently pending in the application. Only claims 16 and 17 are in independent form.

The Office Action states that the specification is objected to as failing to provided proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The Office Action states that proper antecedent basis for the new terminology set forth in claims 4-8 and 10-16 could not be found in the specification. In order to further prosecution, the claims have been amended to specifically recite that it is a urinal or commode mat as set forth in the specification. The cartridge top means is specifically set forth on page 8 of the specification, line 1, and also throughout the specification. The moisture absorbance means is also set forth in the specification namely on pages 7, lines 10-14 wherein the absorbent core is disclosed for absorbing material. This section also discloses the moisture barrier means wherein is disclosed that a moisture barrier is used to prevent leakage of the liquid into the base unit. Accordingly, there is sufficient support in the specification for the claims as currently pending. Reconsideration for the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 11 and 14 have stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the



relevant art that the inventors, at the time the invention was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In order to further prosecution, claims 9, 11, 14 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-9, 10, 12, 13 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Rocket et al reference. Reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as applied to the present claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action states that the Rocket et al reference discloses a floor protection system comprising a cartridge top and absorbent core including a moisture barrier. However, the Rocket et al reference is a floor mat which is walked upon for the absorbence of dirty liquids and other contaminants. In contradistinction, the invention as set forth in the presently pending claims is for use in a bathroom environment. The invention is not designed to be stood upon but instead is intended to be used as a moisture absorbent means comprised of various components. These components can be taken apart such that the absorbent core and moisture barrier which are contained in the cartridge unit can be removed. The Rocket et al reference discloses a single item which must be removed as a unit. The invention as set forth in the presently pending claims, contain a cartridge unit which can be removed while the base unit remains in place. Further, the Rocket et al

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patent does not disclose a cartridge unit of the presently pending independent claims. The cartridge top of the cartridge unit of the presently pending independent claims is a solid material which is used to funnel or move the liquids into the absorbent material. The Rocket et al reference does not disclose such a cartridge top. While there is a top surface, it is not used for funneling or moving liquids into the absorbent core. Accordingly, the Rocket et al reference does not disclose all of the elements of the commode mat of the presently pending independent claims and reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The remaining dependent claims not specifically discussed herein are ultimately dependent upon the independent claims. References as applied against these dependent claims do not make up for the deficiencies of those references as discussed above, the prior art references do not disclose the characterizing features of the independent claims discussed above. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are patentable over the prior art.

In view of the present amendment and foregoing remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and advancement of the case to issue are respectfully requested.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayment in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 11-1449.

Respectfully submitted,

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